



Source: NYPD locates van sought in Brooklyn shooting

NEW YORK (AP) — Police found an unoccupied U-Haul van in Brooklyn matching the description and license plate number of the vehicle being sought in connection with Tuesday's shooting on a rush-hour subway train, a law enforcement official said. Police were closing off a street about four miles from the shooting scene and clearing nearby businesses while awaiting a bomb squad and the highly specialized emergency services unit. The official was not authorized to discuss the investigation and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. Officers around the city had been told that if they spotted the U-Haul truck, they should stop it and de-

tain all occupants immediately. THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. AP's earlier story follows below. A gunman in a gas mask and a construction vest set off a smoke canister on a rush-hour subway train in Brooklyn and shot at least 10 people Tuesday, authorities said. Police were scouring the city for the shooter and a rental truck. A scene of horror unfolded as frightened commuters ran from the train as others limped out of it. At least one rider collapsed on the platform. "My subway door opened into calamity. It was smoke and blood and people screaming," eyewitness Sam Carcamo told radio station 1010 WINS.

Continued on next page



Law enforcement gather near the entrance to a subway stop in the Brooklyn borough of New York, Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

Associated Press

EASTER BEERHUNT

April 17th & 18th

3RD YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Live Music
Travel Session Band

5PM - 3AM

4-20

The Bulldog Aruba

3RD YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY

We always welcome walk-ins, but reservations are highly recommended!
T +2975637951 E orsine.wanga@thebulldog.com

LOCATED IN THE CENTER OF PASEO HERENCIA MALL

Workation?

Get your **Prepaid Wireless Broadband** and stay connected everywhere in Aruba!!!

SETAR

AQUA GRILL

FREE DESSERT

Not valid with other promotions, coupons or vouchers. Valid with purchase of appetizer and entree. Each coupon is valid for one person per table.

SCAN ME

ARUBA'S PREMIER SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

Reservations + (297) 586-5900
www.aqua-grill.com

Continued from Front

Smoke poured out of the train car as the door opened, he added.

Five people were in critical condition but expected to survive. At least 29 in all were treated at hospitals for gunshot wounds, smoke inhalation and other conditions.

The gunfire erupted on a train that pulled into a station in the Sunset Park neighborhood, about a 15-minute ride from Manhattan and predominantly home to Hispanic and Asian communities.

Police Commissioner Keechant Sewell said the attack was not being investigated as terrorism, but that she was "not ruling out anything." The shooter's motive was unknown.

Authorities were giving officers a photo they believed to depict the gunman, and the Arizona license plate number of a U-Haul truck to look out for, two law enforcement officials said. Officers were told that if they spotted the truck, they should stop it and detain all occupants immediately. U-Haul said it was ensuring authorities had any information needed.

Investigators recovered



This photo provided by Will B Wylde, a person is aided outside a subway car in the Brooklyn borough of New York, Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

Associated Press

a handgun at the scene, along with multiple smoke devices and other items they are analyzing, said the officials, who were not authorized to discuss the investigation and spoke on condition of anonymity. They said the suspect is believed to have had at least two extended magazines. Investigators believe the weapon jammed, preventing the suspect from continuing to fire, the officials said. The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has com-

pleted an urgent trace to identify the gun's manufacturer, seller and initial owner.

The attack unnerved a city on guard about a rise in gun violence and the ever-present threat of terrorism. It left some New Yorkers jittery about riding the nation's busiest subway system and prompted officials to increase policing at transportation hubs from Philadelphia to Connecticut.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority an-

nounced last fall that it had put security cameras in all 472 subway stations city-wide, saying they would put criminals on an "express track to justice." But the cameras apparently malfunctioned in the station where the train arrived, Mayor Eric Adams told WCBS-AM.

One rider's video, shot through a closed door between subway cars, shows a person in a hooded sweatshirt raising an arm and pointing at something as five bangs sound. In another video, smoke and people pour out of a subway car, some limping. "Someone call 911!" a person shouts.

Other video and photos from the scene show people tending to bloodied passengers lying on the platform — some amid what appear to be small puddles of blood — and another person on the floor of a subway car.

Rider Juliana Fonda, a broadcast engineer at WNYC-FM, told its news site Gothamist that passengers from the car behind hers started banging on the connecting door.

"There was a lot of loud pops, and there was smoke in the other car," she said. "And people were trying to get in and they couldn't, they were pounding on the door to get into our car." As police searched for the shooter, Gov. Kathy Hochul warned New Yorkers to be vigilant.

"This individual is still on the loose. This person is dangerous," the Democrat said at a news conference just after noon. "This is an active shooter situation right now in the city of New York."

Fire and police officials had responded to reports of an explosion, but Sewell said at the press conference that there were no known explosive devices. Multiple smoke devices were found on the scene, mayoral spokesperson Fabien Levy said.

After people streamed out of the train, quick-thinking transit workers ushered passengers to another train across the platform for safety, MTA system chief Janno Lieber noted.

High school student John

Butsikaris was riding the other train when he saw a conductor urging everyone to get in. He thought it might be a mundane problem until the next stop, when he heard screams for medical attention and his train was evacuated.

"I'm definitely shook," the 15-year-old told The Associated Press. "Even though I didn't see what happened, I'm still scared, because it was like a few feet away from me, what happened." No transit workers were physically hurt, according to their union. Besides gunshot wounds, the injured riders were treated for smoke inhalation, shrapnel and panic.

In Menlo, Iowa, President Joe Biden praised "the first responders who jumped in action, including civilians, civilians, who didn't hesitate to help their fellow passengers and tried to shield them."

Adams, who is isolating following a positive COVID-19 test on Sunday, said in a video statement that the city "will not allow New Yorkers to be terrorized, even by a single individual." New York City has faced a spate of shootings and high-profile incidents in recent months, including on the city's subways. One of the most shocking was in January, when a woman was pushed to her death in front of a train by a stranger.

Adams, a Democrat a little over 100 days into his term, has made cracking down on crime — especially on the subways — a focus of his early administration, pledging to send more police officers into stations and platforms for regular patrols. It wasn't immediately clear whether officers were already inside the station when the shootings occurred.

Danny Mastrogiorgio of Brooklyn had just dropped his son off at school when he saw a crush of panicked passengers, some of them wounded, running up the stairway at the nearby 25th Street station. At least two had visible leg injuries, he said.

"It was insane," he told the AP. "No one knew exactly what was going on." □

COVID TESTING MADE EASY!

At the Paseo Herencia Mall

 <p>LOCATION Paseo Herencia Mall next to TGIF</p>	 <p>ANTIGEN Approved for re-entry to the U.S.</p>	 <p>ANTIGEN \$35 Same day results</p>
 <p>PCR \$75 Next day results</p>	 <p>VERY gentle swabbers</p>	 <p>JUST WALK IN! No appointment needed.</p>

OPEN DAILY FROM 9AM - 9PM




U.S. allies aim to force Russia to shift money away from war

By **FATIMA HUSSEIN**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and its allies are pushing ahead with sanctions aimed at forcing Vladimir Putin to spend Russia's money propping up its economy rather than sustaining its "war machine" for the fight in Ukraine, a top Treasury Department official said Tuesday. Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo, one of the main U.S. coordinators on the Russian sanctions strategy, said in an interview with The Associated Press that the goal is to make Russia "less able to project power in the future."

On the same day that inflation notched its steepest increase in decades, Adeyemo said reducing supply chain backlogs and managing the pandemic are key to bringing down soaring prices that he related to the ongoing land war in Ukraine, which has contributed to rising energy costs. "Let's be clear that the increase in energy prices was caused by President Putin's invasion, and we're going to continue to see volatility in those markets as long as President Putin continues his illegitimate invasion of Ukraine," he said. He added that the Biden administration was "committed to doing everything we can to lower the cost of energy for the American people."

As Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's No. 2, Adeyemo is tasked with developing a sanctions strategy that many economists have equated to economic warfare with Russia. He's also leading Treasury's efforts to rebuild the American economy from the pandemic with equity at the fore.

Adeyemo discussed the next steps the U.S. and its allies will take to inflict financial pain on Russia — and the complications the war has on rising costs to Americans back home.

The U.S. and its allies will next target the supply chains that contribute to the construction of Russia's war machine, Adeyemo said, which includes "everything from looking at ways

to go after the military devices that have been built to use not only in Ukraine, but to project power elsewhere."

"What that means practically is that with less money, Russia will have less money to invest in their military," he said.

Adeyemo said Putin recently admitted that the Russian economy was going to have to transform. Adeyemo interpreted that to mean that "the Russian economy is less flexible, it's smaller, it's less able to project power into the future." Adeyemo's work includes coordinating with U.S. allies to develop thousands of unprecedented sanctions on Russia's leadership and its Central Bank, which is intended to cripple the country's financial system. Germany in particular faces international pressure to curb its business ties with Russia, which provides the European superpower with natural gas.

"Our German counterparts and my European counterparts in general are working as hard as possible to make plans to get off of Russian energy as quickly as possible, including last week's announcement that they were going to ban Russian coal in the near term," Adeyemo said. "And our expectation is that they're going to take these steps." In the U.S., the economy has proven to be a struggle for the Biden administration as the strong job gains of the past year have also yielded the worst inflation in more than four decades. The Labor Department reported Tuesday that prices in March climbed 8.5% from a year ago, the steepest increase since December 1981.

While inflation began to increase before Russia invaded the Ukraine, the war has strained supplies of oil and gasoline. Half of the past month's increase in consumer prices came from gas.

This economic volatility is a challenge to other work that Adeyemo is tasked with for Treasury — leading an equitable pandemic-re-



Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo speaks during an interview in his office at the Treasury Department in Washington, Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

Associated Press

lated economic recovery through Treasury's Office of Recovery Programs, which marks its one year anniversary this week.

Adeyemo said he had recently visited Memphis to see how the city was us-

ing American Rescue Plan dollars to help people pay their rent. Overall, he said, "we've seen 80% applied towards low income households, 40% to African American households and 20% to Latinx households."

He said it was imperative that remaining relief money under the program be used to help small businesses, including through the State Small Business Credit Initiative, which allows states to increase access to credit for small businesses.

"Lots of communities are thinking through ways to not only use the money to address the immediate crisis, but how they build their communities better into the future in order to make sure that people have economic opportunity," he said. □

WACKY WAHOO'S

Your first choice for locally caught fish and seafood on the island.
Very reasonably priced, exciting menu and no service charge added to your bill.



We are open from Monday - Saturday from 5.30pm - 10pm.
No reservation required! We operate on a first come first serve system.

Located within walking distance from the High Rise hotels at Palm Beach #33.
For more information call +297-586.7333

Maine lawmakers taking up thorny issue of tribal sovereignty

By DAVID SHARP

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) —

Tribes in Maine gave up some of their rights to the state when they settled their land claims more than 40 years ago.

They want to change that agreement so they can enjoy the same self-governing rights as the other Native Americans.

The Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, Maliseet and Mi'kmaq view legislative debate this week, ahead of the midterm elections, as their best opportunity for establishing rights to self-determination.

The proposed changes come against a backdrop of President Joe Biden's administration seeking to ensure that tribes are consulted early when it comes to policies or actions that impact them. It also has sought ways for the federal government and tribes to co-manage federal land that is part of tribes' ancestral homeland.

But unlike the hundreds of tribal reservations across the United States, the Passamaquoddy's and Penobscot's three reservations in Maine are governed like municipalities and bound by state laws under the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980.

In Maine, the larger Passamaquoddy and Penobscot tribes operate their own police departments and health clinics but don't have full autonomy over matters on their land. The state and tribes have buttressed heads on environmental, fish and wildlife rules.

Change could come with



Protesters concerned with tribal sovereignty laws gather at the State House, Monday, April 11, 2022, in Augusta, Maine.

Associated Press

votes in the state Legislature that began Tuesday.

One of the bills would amend the land claims act to ensure that tribes have control over their land that's comparable to other tribes in the U.S. Of the 574 federally recognized tribes in the country, about 325 have reservation land. The Legislature has not voted on that bill.

Another bill would ensure the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point can regulate its own drinking water, drilling wells on land owned by the tribe, for example, and working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency instead of being bound by state regulatory agencies.

That bill overwhelmingly passed, 103-35, in the initial House vote on Tuesday. The Senate will take it up

later this week.

On Monday, about 300 tribal members and supporters gathered at the State House and marched to the home of Gov. Janet Mills, who's opposed some aspects of both proposals. One of the speakers, 19-year-old Passamaquoddy Noela Altwater, told the crowd that clean drinking water is available virtually everywhere in Maine — except on the Pleasant Point reservation where she's grown up.

"Our community has been stripped and kept from this basic need for our entire existence," she said.

Chief Maggie Dana of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point, also known as Sipayik, put it in stark terms.

"Our culture is clear — water is life. And for the Pas-

samaquoddy people at Sipayik, it is poison," Dana said.

For the tribes, it has been a long, frustrating battle since they traded some rights to the state under an \$81.5 million settlement that was signed by President Jimmy Carter in 1980. The settlement can be changed, but only with the agreement of both the state and the tribes.

That settlement for the Passamaquoddy, Penobscot and Maliseet, along with a 1991 agreement for the Mi'kmaq, all federally recognized, put the Maine tribes on a different footing from tribes elsewhere across the country.

In Maine, opponents fear unintended consequences, like tribes flexing their muscle on environmental, fish and wildlife, and eco-

nomics development.

That's one of the reasons why Maine's Democratic governor has not warmed to the sovereignty bill. If it's approved, she might veto it.

A spokesperson said the governor is committed to improving drinking water quality by working with the local water district, Passamaquoddy Tribe, and the federal government. But Mills didn't appreciate one tribal leader's suggestion that she was offering "beads and trinkets" instead of substantive proposals.

"The governor is focused on bringing people together to solve problems, not trading insults at press conferences," spokesperson Lindsay Crete said.

Despite the governor's opposition, the tribes still see this as their best chance, potentially for some time, to get the bills passed because they have the support of Democratic leadership.

With the midterms coming up, Republicans could take control of one or both Democratically controlled chambers in the State House, along with the governorship, hampering efforts to press forward with the proposals.

Maggie Dana said the tribes have been educating lawmakers and creating alliances, and they're hopeful for change.

It's time for the state to live up to its motto *Dirigo*, which is Latin for "I lead," instead of being last to expand the rights of Native Americans to the same rights enjoyed by others, Dana said. □

Pastors sue AME Church over missing retirement funds

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Pastors have filed at least three federal lawsuits in recent weeks against the African Methodist Episcopal Church along with several subsidiaries and financial firms the church used, alleging tens of millions of dollars from a pension fund were mismanaged and missing.

The retired and current pastors in Florida, Mary-

land and Virginia filed the lawsuits against the oldest historically Black denomination in the U.S. late last month. They are seeking class-action status on behalf of thousands of other AME pastors and church officials throughout the country who lost money through the pension fund.

The pastors, who were required to participate in the retirement plan, said they

have been unable to get access to their money.

The lawsuit filed by the Florida pastor, the Rev. Charles Jackson in Orlando, alleges the church and its related financial institutions were negligent and breached their fiduciary responsibilities. Jackson is seeking a jury trial and punitive damages in the complaint filed in federal court in Tennessee.

"Many Class member — including Plaintiff Reverend Jackson — are retired and have suddenly learned that resources they relied on to support themselves, to depend on in times of bad health, and to simply enjoy during retirement, have been stolen from them by people they trusted," the lawsuit said.

In their lawsuit filed in Virginia, the Revs. Derrell Wade

and Reuben Boyd allege that between \$80 million and \$90 million was unaccounted for by either 2020 or 2021.

The church's retirement fund chair "invested Plan assets in imprudent, extraordinarily risky investments that ultimately lost nearly \$100 million of Plan participants' retirement savings," the Maryland lawsuit said. □

U.N.: Nearly two-thirds of Ukraine's children have fled homes

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Nearly two-thirds of all Ukrainian children have fled their homes in the six weeks since Russia's invasion, and the United Nations has verified the deaths of 142 youngsters, though the number is almost certainly much higher, the U.N. children's agency said Monday.

Manuel Fontaine, UNICEF's emergency programs director who just returned from Ukraine, said having 4.8 million of Ukraine's 7.5 million children displaced in such a short time is "quite incredible." He said it is something he hadn't before seen happen so quickly in 31 years of humanitarian work.

"They have been forced to leave everything behind — their homes, their schools and, often, their family members," he told the U.N. Security Council. "I have heard stories of the desperate steps parents are taking to get their children to safety, and children saddened that they are unable to get back to school."

Ukraine's U.N. ambassador, Sergiy Kyslytsya, claimed Russia has taken more than 121,000 children out of Ukraine and reportedly drafted a bill to simplify and accelerate adoption procedures for orphans and even those who have parents and other relatives. He said most of the children were removed from the besieged southern port city of Mariupol and taken to eastern Donetsk and then to the Russian city of Taganrog.

Fontaine said UNICEF has heard the same reports, but added that "we don't have yet the access that we need to have to be able to look and verify and see if we can assist."

He said that of Ukraine's displaced children, 2.8 million are in Ukraine and 2 million more are in other countries. At the same time, he said, nearly half the estimated 3.2 million children still in their homes in Ukraine "may be at risk of not having enough food," with those



Pope Francis greets children refugees from Ukraine, during his weekly general audience in the Paul VI Hall, at the Vatican, Wednesday, April 6, 2022. Ukrainian script on the drawing reads "We want peace"

Associated Press

in besieged cities like Mariupol facing the most dire situation.

Fontaine said school closings are affecting the education of 5.7 million younger children and 1.5 million students in higher education.

"Hundreds of schools and educational facilities have been attacked or used for military purposes," he said. "Others are serving as shelters for civilians."

The council also heard from Sima Bahous, the executive director of the UN Women agency, who recently returned from Moldova, which is hosting an estimated 95,000 Ukrainian refugees.

Bahous said her agency is increasingly hearing allegations of rape and sexual violence. She said Moldova's government and border police are also very concerned at the risk of human trafficking, especially of young women and unaccompanied teenagers. "The combination of mass displacement with the large presence of conscripts and mercenaries, and the brutality displayed

against Ukrainian civilians, has raised all red flags," she said.

Ukraine's ambassador said his country's prosecutor's office is now investigating a case in the Kyiv region in which a Russia soldier is alleged to have killed a local resident and then repeatedly raped his wife in their home. He said the alleged perpetrator has been identified.

Kyslytsya said the Prosecutor General's Office, in cooperation with investigation agencies and health facilities, is also installing "a special mechanism" to document cases of sexual violence by Russian soldiers. The Security Council meeting on the impact of the war on women and children was convened by the U.S. and Albania during Britain's presidency of the

body.

The three countries, Ukraine and other council members attacked Russia for creating the dire situation for women and children, which Russian deputy ambassador Dmitry Polyansky vehemently denied.

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said that when men like Russian President Vladimir Putin "start wars, women and children get displaced," hurt, raped and abused, and they die.

"Since the start of Russia's unprovoked war against Ukraine, Russia has bombed orphanages and maternity hospitals," she said. "We've seen mass graves with dead children stacked on top of each other."

Albanian Ambassador Ferit Hoxha accused Russia of committing "unspeakable

crimes" every day, including burning civilians, throwing bodies in mass graves, shooting into playgrounds, attacking schools on purpose, and leaving all Ukrainians suffering, especially women and children.

"In their normal life, children draw parents, houses and trees. Russia's war has made Ukraine kids draw bombs, tanks and weapons," Hoxha said.

Both the U.S. and Albanian ambassadors, and many others, pointed to the discovery of bodies, some with hands tied behind their backs, in the town of Bucha on the outskirts of Kyiv following the withdrawal of Russian troops, and the missile that killed at least 52 mainly women and children at the train station in eastern Kramatorsk. Hoxha noted that the missile had "a vicious signature, 'for our children.'"

Russia's Polyansky blamed "Ukrainian Nazis" for civilian killings in Bucha and the bombing at the Kramatorsk station, which he called "a classic false flag operation."

He accused Ukraine and its public relations experts, along with the West, of promoting "fakes and propaganda" as part of "the information war unleashed against Russia."

"That war is as intense as the military operations on the ground," he said.

Lord Tariq Ahmad, Britain's minister of state for the U.N. who presided over the meeting, countered that Russia again was trying to deflect from the reality on the ground "by what can only be described as quite extraordinary statements, and even lies."

"Yet, what is true, what is fact, is that Russian attacks on civilians and residential areas have been truly barbaric," he said. □



LIKE US ON

facebook

Facebook.com/arubatoday/

Indonesia passes sexual violence law amid growing cases

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

— Indonesia's Parliament approved a far-reaching law on Tuesday that sets punishments for sexual violence after being spurred into action by a recent case in which an Islamic boarding school principal raped and impregnated several students.

The legislation had languished for years amid arguments that it contravenes religious and cultural values in the world's biggest Muslim-majority nation.

The law recognizes men and children can be victims of sexual violence. Indonesia's Criminal Code, a legacy of the Dutch colonial era, recognizes only rape and lewd crimes committed by men against women and doesn't have provisions for restitution or other remedies for victims and survivors.

Nine forms of sexual violence are recognized in the law: physical and non-physical sexual harassment, sexual torture, forced contraception, forced sterilization, forced marriage, sexual slavery, sexual exploitation and cyber sexual harassment.

In addition to acknowledging sexual violence as punishable criminal acts, the law has provisions for protection and recovery for



Activists hold posters reading "stop sexual violence" and "free Indonesia from sexual violence", during a rally commemorating the International Women's Day in Jakarta, Indonesia, Tuesday, March 8, 2022.

Associated Press

the victims.

Of the House of Representatives' nine political parties, only the conservative Muslim-based Prosperous Justice Party, known as PKS, rejected the bill because they wanted it to prohibit extramarital sex and homosexual relations.

"Our rejection is part of our struggle to fight for the prohibition and punishment of perpetrators of adultery and sexual deviations which are ultimately not included in the bill," said Al Muzzamil Yusuf, a legislator

from PKS.

The law was passed a week after an Indonesian high court sentenced an Islamic boarding school principal to death for raping at least 13 students over five years and impregnating some of them. Several girls were 11 and 14 years old and were raped over several years, drawing a public outcry over why he wasn't caught earlier.

President Joko Widodo in January appealed to the House to speed up deliberation on the sexual vio-

lence bill after it had languished in the legislature since 2016 as critics lambasted lawmakers for having "no sense of crisis."

"The protection of sexual violence victims should be our common concern which should be urgently addressed," Widodo said. Under the new law, perpetrators of electronic-based sexual violence could face up to 4 years' imprisonment and a 200 million rupiah (\$13,920) fine, and up to 6 years and a 300 million rupiah (\$20,880) if it was carried

out with the aim of extorting, coercing, and deceiving victims. Perpetrators of sexual exploitation face up to 15 years in prison and a fine of 1 billion rupiah (\$69,600).

The law also mandates that a trust fund and services to help victims recover be established and regulated by the government.

The bill was initiated by the National Commission on Violence Against Women in 2012. Calls for it to be fast-tracked followed the shocking gang rape and murder of a 13-year-old schoolgirl by 14 drunken men in Bengkulu in 2016. It soon stalled due to resistance from PKS and Islamic groups.

The latest draft won majority support when provisions on rape and coerced abortions were removed from to avoid overlapping with proposals to amend the Criminal Code.

Activists involved in protecting victims of sexual violence hailed the new law as a milestone.

"We highly appreciate the tireless efforts of the government and legislators in providing protection for sexual violence victims by passing this long-awaited law," said Siti Mazuma, director of the women's legal aid foundation LBH Apik. □

Death toll from Philippine landslides, floods rises to 43



In this handout photo provided by the Philippine Coast Guard, residents are evacuated by rescuers in a flooded village in Panitan, Panay island, Philippines on Tuesday April 12, 2022.

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The death toll from landslides and floods that hit the central and southern Philip-

pines after a summer tropical depression unleashed days of pounding rain has risen to at least 43, with 28

others missing, officials said Tuesday. More than 100 villagers were injured in landslides in the hard-hit city of Baybay in central Leyte province over the weekend and early Monday, officials said. Army, police and other rescuers were struggling with mud and unstable heaps of earth and debris to find the missing villagers.

"We are saddened by this dreadful incident that caused an unfortunate loss of lives and destruction of properties," said army brigade commander Col. Noel Vestuir, who was helping oversee the search and rescue.

Thirty-six of the dead were recovered from the land-

slides that hit six Baybay villages, military and local officials said.

Seven other people drowned in floodwaters in the central provinces of Samar and Negros Oriental and southern Davao de Oro and Davao Oriental provinces.

More rescuers and heavy equipment, including backhoes, arrived in the landslide-hit villages in Baybay, but continuing rain and muddy ground have hampered the efforts. "The challenge is, it's continuing to rain and we cannot immediately clear the landslide areas," Vestuir said.

Coast guard, police and firefighters rescued some villagers Monday in flood-

ed central communities, including some who were trapped on their roofs. In central Cebu city, schools and work were suspended Monday and Mayor Michael Rama declared a state of calamity to allow the rapid release of emergency funds.

At least 20 storms and typhoons batter the Philippines each year, mostly during the rainy season that begins around June. Some storms have hit even during the scorching summer months in recent years. The disaster-prone Southeast Asian nation also lies on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," where many of the world's volcanic eruptions and earthquakes occur. □

EASTER BRUNCH

CELEBRATE EASTER INDULGING IN AN EXQUISITE BRUNCH BUFFET AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, ARUBA

APRIL 17 | 11 AM – 2 PM | ADULTS \$65 - TEENS \$35 - CHILDREN (5-12) \$25
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 527 2222



Old-style government practices seen in Mexican recall vote

By **MARÍA VERZA**

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Analysts in Mexico said Monday that President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's successful push to hold the weekend's recall vote could, paradoxically, leave Mexico's democracy weaker.

López Obrador declared Sunday's referendum, in which he was strongly supported by the few Mexicans voters who participated, as "a complete success" and "a historic event."

He described the vote as a victory for "participative democracy," noting Mexicans had never before been allowed to vote on whether a president should be recalled from office. But his Morena party used illegal, old-style electioneering tactics to get out the vote for what was a largely symbolic vote.

López Obrador was never in doubt of losing the referendum Sunday, with his approval ratings currently hovering around 60%. Near-final vote tallies Monday showed that about 92% of the ballots cast said he should remain in office. Still, the president saw getting large numbers of voters to turn out was the real measure of his political

movement. Turnout was about 16.5 million, or only about 18% of eligible voters — far below the 40% turnout needed to make the vote binding.

The leader of López Obrador's party, Mario Delgado, boasted about driving around in a van, picking up people to take them to polling places, a practice that is illegal in Mexico.

Delgado posted photos in his social media accounts showing him driving a van painted with the words "Do you want to vote? I'll take you there!" The van was later shown loaded with people who had voted.

Clara Jusidman, an economist and civic activist, said some government employees also were required to bring a minimum number of people to polling places. That is a practice reminiscent of the old Institutional Revolutionary Party, which governed Mexico for seven decades without interruption until it lost the 2000 elections.

"A lot of rules were broken that had been established to protect against government intervention, the use of public funds to promote (a vote) and 'client' politics," Jusidman said, referring to people who feel they have to vote to preserve their government benefits.

And the president himself has criticized elements of the electoral system that emerged after decades of near one-party rule in an effort to strengthen democracy, among them independent electoral authorities established in the late 1990s to ensure fair play and equity in elections.

López Obrador has pledged to overhaul the National Electoral Institute, contending that it is too ex-



Mexico's President Andres Manuel López Obrador shows his identification card after voting in a national referendum on whether he should end his six-year term barely midway through or continue to the end, outside his polling station in Mexico City, Sunday, April 10, 2022.

Associated Press

pensive and is hostile to his Morena party.

Critics said Sunday's vote was the real waste of money. They said it cost almost \$80 million and was just a

way for López Obrador to rally his base midway through the single term allowed Mexico's presidents. They worry that changes to the electoral institute are

likely to decrease its autonomy and independence.

In fact, López Obrador has expressed dislike for independent regulatory and oversight bodies in general, such as in government transparency and information access. He has sought to eliminate some of them. Luis Miguel Pérez Juárez, an expert in democratic transitions at the Monterrey Technological Institute, said the president has never had much affection for the electoral institute, known by its initials as the INE, which occasionally tries to limit what elected officials can say in the run-up to elections.

"Ever since he came to power, the INE has bothered him," Pérez Juárez said. □

ARUBA CLEAN



IS MORE DUSHI

Time for Two

Make the most of your vacation escape with these romantic treatments for two:

Tempo pa Dos
Coco pa Dos
Biento den Cabana



eforea
SPA

For more information and reservations,
dial resort extension 6053 or visit eforea spa.
Monday - Sunday: 9:00am - 6:00pm



Fit2fly COVID-19
Testing Center
NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED!

**NAAT (Abott ID):
Result in 30 minutes!**
**PCR / Antigen Test
SAME DAY RESULT!**



MedCare Clinic
URGENT CARE

Tel: (+297) 280-0630

info@medcare.aw / www.medcare.aw

Locations: **The Cove Mall (8:00 AM - 6:00 PM)** **Medcare near Courtyard by Marriott (8:00 AM - 2:00 PM)**

New beginnings after the kitchen table and beyond with new restaurant: Infini by Chef Urvin Croes

PALM BEACH — After spearheading *The Kitchen Table* for five years, receiving notable recognitions in *USA Today*, *The Daily Meal* and earning the #1 spot on *TripAdvisor's* list of Fine Dining Restaurants in the Caribbean, Chef Urvin Croes has now moved on to higher heights. *Infini*, his new chef's table, which opened at the *Blue Residences* in November 2020, allows the Michelin-trained Aruban culinary artist to create gastronomic experiences unconfined by cultural or regional expectations. The former *The Kitchen Table* space has since been renovated into a suitable culinary studio to host this vision. In describing these changes, Croes says: "We opened up the entire kitchen and elevated the dining tables so guests have a front row stadium-like view of each step of the preparations. The spotlights, which we carefully choreograph, follow the plates' transition from blank canvas into culinary works of art."

"It is a flavor that you cannot define, but you can create."

He had been sitting on the first menu for over a year. Inspired by umami, one of the five basic tastes, and also Japanese for "essence of deliciousness", Chef Croes strived to organically produce this palate in each dish of the eight-course Chef's Impression. "It is a flavor that

you cannot define, but you can create. Take our popular langoustine for example; we combined elements that are rarely paired together: the bitter, sour and salty flavors of the lemon cream, kombucha, green grapes, watercress and achiote, fused with the sweet and delicate taste of the langoustine induce ultimate umami."

After hosting the first menu for three months, the Executive Chef introduced a second tour de force in February 2021 — this time a pescatarian menu dedicated to Lent, of which Croes has to say: "I wanted to focus on the finest fish in the world, they are the protagonists of this season." Visitors can experience the second Chef's Impression until May 2021, at which point Croes and his team will reveal exciting new flavors for the summer.

"Without a great team, there is no great chef"

"There is very little I can do by myself. Without a great team, there is no great chef", says Croes, while raving about the six young professionals sharing his kitchen. All graduates of Aruba's EPI College and familiar faces to the Chef as each one has completed their culinary internship under his guidance. In fact, *Infini's* Chef de Cuisine, Ashwin Maduro, was Urvin's very first student, before relocating to Amsterdam, where he worked at several Michelin-starred restaurants, including &moshik (formally &Samhoud Places). Having recently returned to Aruba, Chef Maduro is thrilled to be reunited with his first mentor and hopes to secure Aruba's space on the global map of unique culinary experiences. Similarly, after four years working in the two-Michelin starred restaurant *Spectrum*, Chef de Partie Moises Ramirez returned home to share his vast experience in formulating recipes with meticulous attention to detail and consistency. Further down the kitchen line, Chef de Partie Alvaro Yi, who has worked at the two-Michelin starred *FG Restaurant*, is all about expressing himself through cooking and plating to create art that you can eat. Mixologist Marc-Anthony Rannis brings eight years of experience in the fine dining industry to *Infini*. His fine craftsmanship is displayed in the unparalleled wine pairings and signature



cocktails, which include his personally homemade syrups, garnishes and fresh local ingredients. *Maître D'* and Junior Sommelier Jessica Theysen, who previously managed renowned Chef Dennis Huwaë's *Restaurant Daalder* in Amsterdam, is a true storyteller. From the moment she serves the *Salinity* welcome drink and the culinary tale begins, she takes you on an adventure around the world to discover never-before-tasted combinations. Then, towards the end of the night, it is his time to shine — Pastry Chef Jean-Claude Werleman, that is. After spending the last two years perfecting his recipes in the Pastry Department of the *Ritz Carlton Aruba*, Werleman joins *Infini* to continue exploring his passion for experimenting with colors and bold flavors.

"It's time to show that Aruba is a culinary destination of its own"

"The goal is to leave our visitors speechless. The look on their faces whenever they take the first bite says it all and it is priceless", shares Croes, with a smile. Reclaiming the spot of number one restaurant in the Caribbean is also in sight, but this time he will not stop there. "In the end, we want Aruba to be recognized for its culinary mastery. We have trained the best culinary artists right here on the island and they have proven themselves internationally in the most renowned kitchens in the world. Now it is time to show that Aruba is a culinary destination of its own. Who knows where that will take us; hopefully to infinity and beyond."

Infini located at *Blue Residences* currently serves an eight-course Chef's Impression to up to 21 guests starting at 6:30PM. To make reservations visit www.infiniaruba.com or call +297-699-3982.

**THE BEST
POKE BOWLS, SUSHI AND BAOS
FOR EVERYONE!**

PO-KE ONO
My Urvin Croes

DAILY SPECIALS

AZURE BEACH RESIDENCES

Open from Monday to Saturday for Breakfast,
Lunch & Dinner
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM / 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM
+297 5253610

RENAISSANCE MARKETPLACE

Open from Monday to Saturday for
Lunch & Dinner
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM / 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM
+297 2800774

BINGO IS BACK EVERY THURSDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY!

WILDER
Wednesday

— WIN A SHARE OF UP TO —

\$1,000 in
Free Slot Play

Every Wednesday | 10am to Midnight

Earn 25 points and swipe at any kiosk to play.
Win \$20 to \$100 in Free Slot Play.
Play up to five times each Wednesday.Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.THE SHOPS
AT ALHAMBRA CASINOOffering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets,
Salon & Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.

Dunkin Donuts | Baskin Robbins | Fusion Piano & Wine Bar

Hungry Piranha | Twist of Flavors | Juan Valdez Café

The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood

Coming Soon: Auntie Anne's Pretzels



Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!

Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



Native Shamans

Our goal at Etnia Nativa is to create cultural awareness, promote education and safeguard our heritage by guiding our readers to become the next and new guardians of Aruba.

In this episode we will raise awareness regarding "Shamans" spiritual guides, priest or priestess who uses magic spells, potions and autoconviction in order to heal the sick, divine the occult, and control events. Historically, it has been anthropologists who identify these central figures who where attributed the title of "Shamans" or pajés and not the indigenous people. Shamanism is not associated with any particular religion nor is it itself a religion. Instead, shamans across the world belong to different organized spiritual view shamanism is considered related to animistic spiritual practice.

Shamans act as mediators claiming to communicate with the spirits on behalf of the community, including the spirits of the deceased and those of the underworld. Shamans believe they can communicate with both living and dead to alleviate unrest, unsettled issues, and to deliver gifts to the spirits, etc.

It is impossible to characterize "shamanism" or "shamanic teaching practices" belonging to a single indigenous group of lowland South American and Caribbean. Their knowledge and practices vary considerably between groups due to different regions and the natural resources available.



Many "shamanic specialists" ritually administer substances for beneficial purposes, but an equal number of these individuals are recognized for their potential to send harm to others.

Among our Caquetios ancestors, Shamanism was expressed during the Cohoba and Maco ceremonies. Shamans organized ceremonies by serving chicha in calabash, corn beer to important men of the community who later on will inhaled a preparation consisting of a psychoactive powders or tasted poisonous back of a cane toads. Sitting on a rock or a wooden stool, they would first stick a kind of spatula down their throat, purging their stomach and purifying the soul to receive the sacred message and power to enter the spiritual world. The cohoba ritual was intended to help its practitioners to contact deities or spirits. And for the Shaman to diagnose illnesses and predict the future. On the other hand, it has been interpreted to empower the practitioner to transmit and as a propitiatory to the ceramic effigies and diaties that were buried in Cunucos, which in turn transmit powers of fertility to the agricultural purposes, to supply abundant yucca, maize, beans, peanuts, tabaco and pumpkins.

The practice of using Yopo or cane toad excretion was always dangerous for those experimenting with it, and did not always help the participant achieve any vision. Still, it was a very important religious practice which has its roots in Caquetian spiritualism. It is believed that the cult dedicated to nature spirits was practiced along with their mythological

Episode CXLIX- 149

believes. Given the heterogeneity of language and culture, The story goes tells that some, shamanic practitioners vision is acquired through dreams, without a formal apprenticeship. It is generally accepted that all people share a bit of shamanic powers. Others have formal apprenticeships with masters.

In some cases the aggressor may be the same person who heals. Among the Arawakans of the Rio Negro and Guyana regions, there are a plurality of specialists who are classified by intention and by techniques. The poison owners can cause harm or healing by applying their plant knowledge. Anyone who knows the right chants can cause harm. There are a variety of healers, who are distinguished by their secret knowledge and the substances and therapeutic techniques.

Aboriginal tribes of the Caribbean, Central and South America, including the Caquetioan groups of our islands, used to ground the seeds of the plant *Ana denantera preregina together with other herbs and grinded snails or shells, which they burn and then add the mixture into a container for its elaboration. This they obtain through the sacred fire ritual. In this way they obtained a fine powder, essentially hallucinogenic, that was inhaled or blown in the nose of the companion either as a remedy or for spiritual trance, known as hecura to the Yanomamis of the Amazon region. A trance that facilitates the interpretation of messages, throwing effective spells and the offering of blessings through open portals of earthly power. □

Leatherback Sea Turtle Season has started

The Leatherback Sea Turtles nesting in Aruba don't live in the Caribbean, but in the Northern part of the Atlantic Ocean, as far as Nova Scotia, Canada.

But they are born on Aruba's beaches. After 20 – 30

years they reach maturity and then return to their natal beach to nest during the turtle nesting season (March – July).

It is very impressive to see a huge sea turtle coming ashore, enjoy the sight, but

make sure that the turtle does not see you! Stay out of her sight at a distance of at least 10 meters. The picture was taken at Arashi, some years ago during daytime. Normally sea turtle females will nest at night

All species of sea turtles are endangered and need our protection. What you can do to protect sea turtles: Lights out for sea turtles. Nighttime activities and artificial lighting may deter adult females from nesting. So PLEASE keep all lights off, including flashlights, flash photography and video equipment. "Sea turtles dig the dark"

Ask your hotel manager to turn off or minimize the lights that are visible on the



beach in front of the resort. Close the curtains of your room at night to prevent light shining on the beach.

Do not drive on beaches. Not all turtle nests on all the beaches around Aruba are marked. Vehicles (4x4, quads) can crush the eggs and will compact the sand. Driving on a beach is not good for the condition of the sand (and for our own condition it is better to walk!)

Do not litter. Do not leave any plastic cups, straws, bags, balloons on the beach. The wind will blow it into the sea. A floating plastic bag is easily mistaken for a jellyfish, the Leatherback Sea Turtle's favorite food.

Remove obstacles from the beach. Obstacles as beach furniture or recreational equipment may cause nesting females to

abort their nesting attempt or may even trap them. So don't leave any beach chairs at night unattended close to the sea but make a stack as far as possible away from the water.

Do not disturb a nesting sea turtle. Do not attempt to touch the turtle but stay at a respectful distance (at least 10 meters). Do allow the turtle to complete the full nesting process (about two hours) and don't be in her way when she returns to the sea. • Do call Turtugaruba (24-hour Turtle Hotline: (297) 5929393).

Follow Turtugaruba at www.facebook.com/Turtugaruba.

If you witness a sea turtle, or if you see turtle crawl marks, during a late evening or early morning stroll on the beach please do call Turtugaruba. Thanks a lot! □

AN EASTER BRUNCH WITH ATTITUDE



FOR THOSE WHO PREFER BUBBLY TO BUNNIES.

This Easter Sunday, forget hidden eggs and hollow chocolate bunnies and come enjoy something sexier. At L.G. Smith's, you'll discover a delicious menu of brunch favorites, a live DJ and an atmosphere unlike any Easter you've ever seen. The food, drinks and fun are all never-ending, so come indulge and enjoy.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17TH 11am-2:30pm

\$65
plus a 15% service charge.

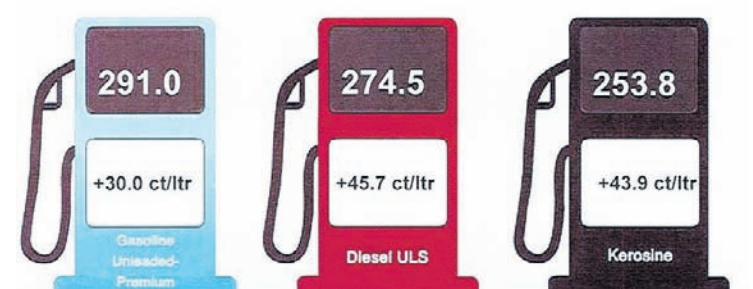
Includes all-you-can-eat a la carte brunch, welcome drink & endless mimosas.



LOCATED NEXT TO WIND CREEK CRYSTAL CASINO.

For more information, or to make a reservation, contact our Navigator at 523.6195 or visit lgsmiths.com.

New prices for petroleum products April 13, 2022



ORANJESTAD – The Minister Economic Affairs, Communications and Sustainable Development announces the adjusted prices for petroleum products starting April 13, 2022.

As of the 13th of April, the petroleum products in Aruba will see an increase in price. The price for Gasoline will see an increase of 30,0 cents, Gasoil LS an increase of 45,7 cents and Kerosene an increase of 43,9 cents.

Gasoline unleaded-premium	: 291,0 cent p/ltr. (+ 30,0 cent)
Gasoil LS	: 274,5 cent p/ltr. (+ 45,7 cent)
Kerosene	: 253,8 cent p/ltr. (+ 43,9 cent)

BBO(turnover tax)/BAZV(Health tax)/BAVP is included in the prices. □

EXPLAINER: Why U.S. inflation is so high, and when it may ease

By **PAUL WISEMAN**

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Another month, another four-decade high for inflation. For the 12 months that ended in March, consumer prices rocketed 8.5%. That was the fastest year-over-year jump since 1981, far surpassing February's mark of 7.9%, itself a 40-year high. Even if you toss out food and energy prices — which are notoriously volatile and have driven much of the price spike — so-called core inflation jumped 6.5% in the past 12 months. That was also the sharpest such jump in four decades. Consumers have felt the squeeze in everyday routines. Gasoline is up an average of 48% in the past year. Airline tickets are up 24%, men's suits nearly 15%, bacon 18%.

The Federal Reserve never anticipated inflation this severe or persistent. Back in December 2020, the Fed's policymakers had forecast that consumer inflation would stay below their 2% annual target and end 2021 at around 1.8%. Yet after having been merely an afterthought for decades, high inflation reasserted itself last year with brutal speed. In February 2021, the government's consumer price index was running just 1.7% above its level a year earlier. From there, the year-over-year



A customer prepares to pump gasoline into his car at a Sam's Club fuel island in Gulfport, Miss., Feb. 19, 2022.

Associated Press

increases accelerated — 2.6% in March, 4.2% in April, 5% in May, 5.4% in June. By October, the figure was 6.2%, by November 6.8%, by December 7%. For months, Fed Chair Jerome Powell and some others characterized higher consumer prices as merely "transitory" — the result, mainly, of shipping delays and temporary shortages of supplies and workers as the economy rebounded from the pandemic recession much faster than anyone had anticipated. Now, most economists expect inflation to remain elevated

well into next year, with demand outstripping supplies in numerous areas of the economy. So the Fed has radically changed course. Last month, it raised its benchmark short-term rate by a quarter-point and is expected to keep raising it, probably aggressively, well into 2023. In doing so, the Fed is moving decisively away from the ultra-low rates that helped revive the economy from the recession but also helped fuel surging consumer prices. The Fed is making a high-risk bet that it can slow the

economy enough to rein in inflation without weakening it so much as to trigger a recession. The overall economy is healthy, with a robust job market and extremely low unemployment. But many economists say they worry that the Fed's steady credit tightening will cause an economic downturn.

WHAT'S CAUSED THE SPIKE IN INFLATION?

Good news — mostly. When the pandemic paralyzed the economy in the spring of 2020 and lockdowns kicked in, businesses closed or cut hours and consumers

stayed home as a health precaution, employers slashed a breathtaking 22 million jobs. Economic output plunged at a record-shattering 31% annual rate in 2020's April-June quarter. Everyone braced for more misery. Companies cut investment and postponed restocking. A brutal recession ensued.

But instead of sinking into a prolonged downturn, the economy staged an unexpectedly rousing recovery, fueled by vast infusions of government aid and emergency intervention by the Fed, which slashed rates, among other things. By spring of last year, the roll-out of vaccines had emboldened consumers to return to restaurants, bars, shops, airports and entertainment venues.

Suddenly, businesses had to scramble to meet demand. They couldn't hire fast enough to fill job openings or buy enough supplies to meet customer orders. As business roared back, ports and freight yards couldn't handle the traffic. Global supply chains seized up.

With demand up and supplies down, costs jumped. And companies found that they could pass along those higher costs in the form of higher prices to consumers, many of whom had managed to pile up savings during the pandemic. □

Yelp to cover travel expenses for workers seeking abortions

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Yelp will cover the travel expenses of employees who must travel out of state for abortions, joining the ranks of major employers trying to help workers affected by new restrictions in Texas and other states.

The benefit announced Tuesday covers all 4,000 employees at the online review service, but seems most likely to have its biggest immediate impact on its 200 workers in Texas, which has passed a law banning abortions within the state after six weeks of pregnancy.

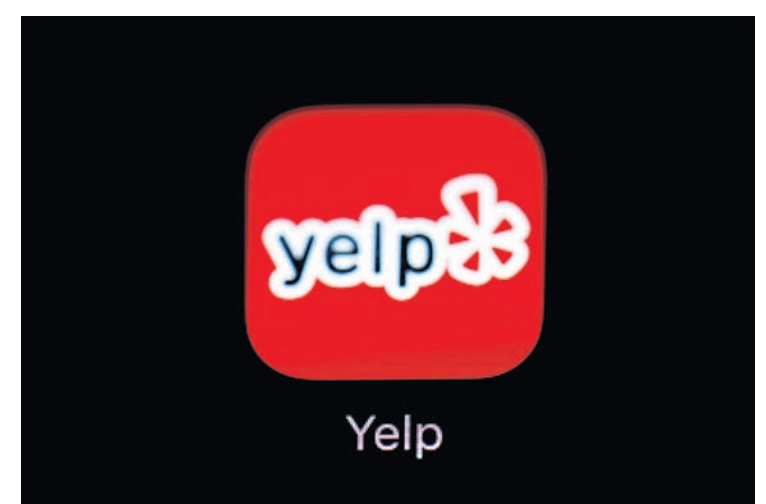
"We've long been a strong advocate for equality in the workplace, and believe that gender equality cannot be achieved if women's healthcare rights are restricted," said Miriam Warren, Yelp's chief diversity officer.

Other states, including Oklahoma, are also clamping down on abortions prompting Yelp, based in San Francisco, and several other companies to draw up policies aimed at helping their workers get reproductive health care in other states. Last month Citigroup, based in New York, dis-

closed plans to cover the travel expenses of any of its more than 220,000 employees, thousands of whom work in Texas, who travel to another state for an abortion.

The two largest U.S. ride-hailing services, Uber and Lyft, last year announced they will pay the legal fees for drivers who could get sued under the new Texas law for transporting a passenger to an appointment for an abortion.

The policies expose companies to potential backlash from those who support abortion restrictions, but they could be an ad-



This March 19, 2018, file photo shows the Yelp app on an iPad in Baltimore.

Associated Press

vantage for employers with a footprint in states like Tex-

as in an increasingly competitive job market. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 44 Sneaker part
 - 45 Game fish
 - 46 "— in St. Louis"

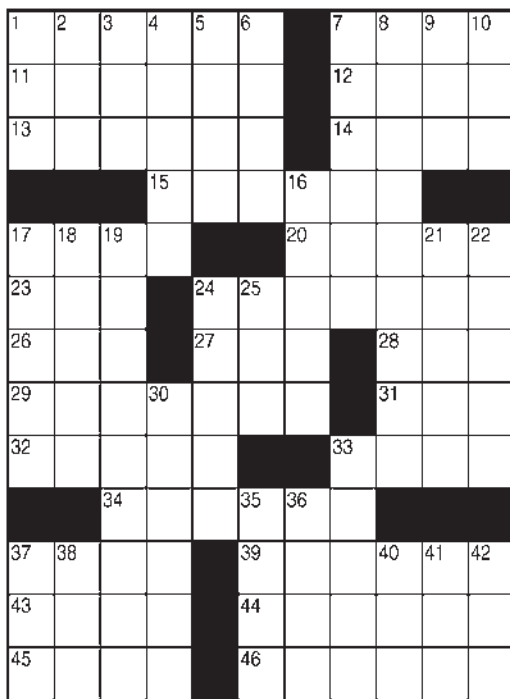
- DOWN**
- 1 That woman
 - 2 Hydro-carbon suffix
 - 3 Play division
 - 4 Sunday entrée
 - 5 Journey
 - 6 Hawk
 - 7 Cash in
 - 8 Scottish city
 - 9 Historic time
 - 10 Ran into
 - 16 Blundered



Yesterday's answer

- 17 Boxing weapons
- 18 George W.'s wife
- 19 Scottish city
- 21 Justice Kagan
- 22 Accept eagerly
- 24 Trio of myth
- 25 Bullring cry
- 30 FBI employees
- 33 Stop
- 35 Quick cut
- 36 Single
- 37 Sphere
- 38 Casserole bit
- 40 Turn bad
- 41 Shade source
- 42 Scottish river

- 26 Minivan alternative
- 27 British brew
- 28 Gym unit
- 29 Picked up the tab
- 31 African grazer
- 32 Private's boss
- 33 Bloke
- 34 Get snug
- 37 Ready for business
- 39 Laughed loudly
- 43 Take a break



4-13

A XYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-13

CRYPTOQUOTE

RS AFO VMKRSU, GA AFO

OSH NY AFO HGQ, QNW

VFNWBH VDOBB BRLO

HRKA. — DGKUGKOA GACNNH
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: ALTHOUGH I CANNOT LAY AN EGG, I AM A VERY GOOD JUDGE OF OMELETTES. — GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

COVID-19, overdoses pushed U.S. to highest death total ever



Medical staff prepare to move the body of a deceased COVID-19 patient to a funeral home van at the Willis-Knighton Medical Center in Shreveport, La., Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2021.

Associated Press

By MIKE STOBBE

AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — 2021 was the deadliest year in U.S. history, and new data and research are offering more insights into how it got that bad.

The main reason for the increase in deaths? COVID-19, said Robert Anderson, who oversees the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's work on death statistics.

The agency this month quietly updated its provisional death tally. It showed there were 3.465 million deaths last year, or about 80,000 more than 2020's record-setting total.

Early last year, some experts were optimistic that 2021 would not be as bad as the first year of the pandemic — partly because effective COVID-19 vaccines had finally become available.

"We were wrong, unfortunately," said Noreen Goldman, a Princeton University researcher.

COVID-19 deaths rose in 2021 — to more than 415,000, up from 351,000 the year before — as new coronavirus variants emerged and an unex-

pectedly large numbers of Americans refused to get vaccinated or were hesitant to wear masks, experts said.

The coronavirus is not solely to blame. Preliminary CDC data also shows the crude death rate for cancer rose slightly, and rates continued to increase for diabetes, chronic liver disease and stroke.

Drug overdose deaths also continued to rise. The CDC does not yet have a tally for 2021 overdose deaths, be-

Blue residences

Eagle Beach

2 BR, 2 bath

Ocean view

Price :\$585K

Call:0 11-297-6301307

johnnypaesch@gmail.com

215245

Casa del Mar 2BR/2B

Week 2/1113 (17k);

Week 5/1315 (19k);

Week 8/1113 (18k);

Week 8/1409 (18k);

Week 9/1218 (16k);

Week 10/1207 (16k);

Week 13/1509 (13k);

Week 14/1308 (13k);

Week 15/1217 (10k).

CDMOwner@gmail.com

U.S. Cell: (860)992-3890

214832

cause it can take weeks of lab work and investigation to identify them. But provisional data through October suggests the nation is on track to see at least 105,000 overdose deaths in 2021 — up from 93,000 the year before.

New research released Tuesday showed a particularly large jump in overdose deaths among 14- to 18-year-olds. □



Marriott Aruba Surf Club PLATINUM SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$25,000
2 Bed Oceanside \$18,500
2 Bed Ocean view \$17,500
2 Bed Garden view \$15,500
3 Bed Ocean view \$28,000
WK 51 Garden view \$42,500
WK 52 Oceanside \$55,000
WK 7 and 14 - all views

GOLD SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$14,000
2 Bed Oceanside \$11,000
2 Bed Ocean view \$8,000
2 Bed Garden view \$6,000
3 Bed Ocean view \$13,000

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club PLATINUM SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$31,000
2 Bed Ocean view \$18,500
1 Bed ocean front \$17,500
1 Bed ocean View \$12,000

GOLD SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$14,000
2 Bed Ocean view \$9,500
1 Bed oceanfront \$9,000
1 Bed ocean View \$6,500

** Destination Points \$8.00 per point

La Cabana Beach Resort

1 Bed wk 51 \$6,500

Divi Aruba Phoenix

1 bed wk 20 unit 633 \$11,000

Other weeks are also available.

**We are the #1
Rental Timeshare
agent for Aruba!**

We also RENT Aruba weeks for owners, Contact us to BUY, SELL or RENT any timeshare property.

Contact:

michelle@conciergerealty.com

888-888-2204 Ext 104

Website:

www.conciergerealty.com

Broker: Michelle Donato

www.facebook.com/groups/MarriottArubaSurf/

www.facebook.com/groups/MarriottAruba/Ocean

Honey Dolls
MASSAGE AND ESCORT SERVICE

Beautiful Latin Girls
Pick-up & Delivery

Serving Men - Couple - Women - All Genders

+297 565-9535

WWW.PLEASUREINARUBA.COM

Classifieds

HTTA
are you Looking to Sell,
your Time Share in Aruba?
Contact us!
Local experts now for 37 years
Giving wonderful service in a
wonderful way
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnpaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.com

HTTA
For our client,
We are looking to purchase
Weeks at the Marriott Surf Club
and Ocean club
All size and view and season
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

HTTA
Aruba Divi Phoenix
Eagle Beach
1 BR 2bath WK#13 Room #763
Pool /ocean View
27 weeks remain
Price :\$14K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

HTTA
Renaissance ocean suite
Private island
1BR deluxe WK #10 and 11
Room #2353 ocean front
Price :\$10K each
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

HTTA
Renaissance ocean suite
Private island
1 BR WK 14 room#2348
Ocean Front \$9K
1 BR WK 14 room #2521
Pool /ocean View \$8K
1 BR WK 14 room #2541
Pool /ocean View \$8K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

HTTA
Renaissance ocean suite
Private island
1BR WK 15 room #2111
Ground floor pool /ocean view
1BR WK #14 room #2336
Harbor /ocean view
Price :8K each
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

HTTA
Renaissance ocean suite
Private island
1BR WK 13 room #2524
Harbor view \$8K
1BR WK 14 room #2539
Pool /ocean View \$8K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

HTTA
Divi Village
Eagle Beach
Studio WK 13 room #6206
Studio WK 14 room #6205
20 weeks remain each
Price :\$7K each
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

HTTA
Dutch Village
Eagle Beach
Studio WK 12 room #33
30 weeks remain
Price :\$9 K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

HTTA
Divi Village
Eagle Beach
2 BR 2bath week 13
Room#3512
29 weeks remain all accelerated
Expire :2036
Price :10 K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

HTTA
Divi Village
Eagle Beach
1 BR floating weeks
Platinum F-building
14 weeks remain
Price :6K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

HTTA
Marriott Ocean Club
Palm Beach
2 BR platinum ocean view
Price :\$22K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

HTTA
Tierra Del Sol
24 hours security
3BR with 2 1/2 bath
Ocean view with garage
Price :\$475K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

HTTA
Le Vent
Eagle Beach
3BR, 3bath
Ground floor \$870K
2 BR, 2 bath
Ground floor \$675K
2 BR, 2bath
5th floor \$990K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

Azure beach residences
Eagle beach
3 BR, 3 bath
Pool /ocean View
Price :\$1, 050,000
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

Blue residences
Eagle Beach
2 BR, 2bath
Beach view
Price :\$699K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

Acqua condominium Aruba
Palm Beach
2 BR, 2 bath
Pool /view
Price :\$650 K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

Pearl Aruba condos
Eagle beach
2 BR, 2 bath
Pool /ocean View
Price :\$369K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

House for sale
San Minquel noord
3 bedroom 2bath
With pool 5 min drive to
Best beaches
Price :\$475K
Call :0 11-297-6301307
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

House for sale
Savaneta near zeerover
3 BR, 2 bath on a property land
5 min walk from the water
Price :\$220K
Call:0 11-297-6301307
johnnpaesch@gmail.com

HTTA
Casa Del Mar
Eagle Beach
2 BR, 2 bath week12 \$17K
Room #1505 pool /ocean view
1 BR week12 room #1328 \$7K
Call:011-297-6301307
johnnpaesch@gmail.com



Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Assistant Director
Xiomara Arends

Editors
Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks

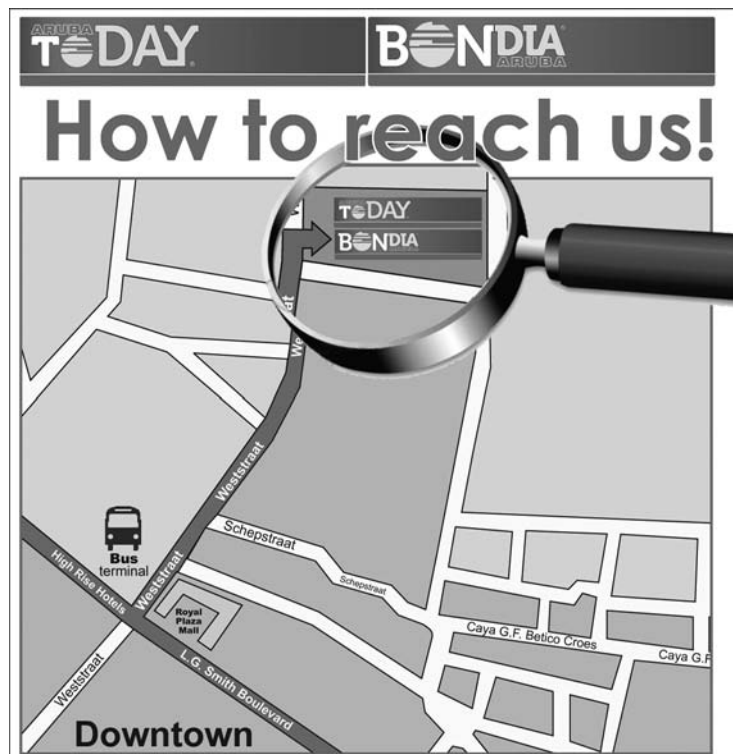
Sales
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds
classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection
accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website
Juan Luis Pinto
Columnists
Anthony Croes

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
@arubatoday



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad
Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas
Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:
DakotaTel. 588 7364
San Nicolas:
Seroe Preto Tel. 584 5712

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



Review: A portrait of a Putin opposition leader in 'Navalny'

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP Film Writer

"Navalny" is so taut and suspenseful you'd think John le Carré had left behind a secret manuscript that's only just coming to light now.

This spellbinding portrait of a Russian opposition leader following an attempt on his life has all the makings of a Hollywood thriller. It has shadowy operatives, truth-seeking journalists, conspiracy theories, Soviet-era poisons and, at its center, a handsome, altruistic family man risking his life to fight a would-be despot.

But "Navalny" is not fiction. And it's somehow even more chilling and prescient now than it was just three months ago when it premiered at the Sundance Film Festival hours after Russian authorities officially added Alexei Navalny to their registry of terrorists. Thanks to Fathom Events, audiences can see it in theaters starting Tuesday. It'll be broadcast on CNN and streamed on HBO Max later this year.

For the uninitiated, Alexei Navalny is a media savvy, anti-corruption campaigner in his mid-40s who has for many years been a headache for Russian President Vladimir Putin. He's released numerous reports about corruption in Russia



Alexei Navalny appears in a scene from the documentary "Navalny."

Associated Press

and the Putin administration and become a popular and rallying figure among like-minded Russians. The media has called him the Kremlin's fiercest critic. And he is seemingly undaunted by the intimidation and the arrests he's endured.

The fame, he thought, might even make it more problematic for him to be killed, he tells director Daniel Roher in the documentary. "Boy, were you wrong,"

Roher says off camera.

"Yes, I was wrong," Navalny says.

Roher was able to sit down with Navalny during his brief stay in Berlin in 2020 and early 2021, while recovering from being poisoned and seeking the truth behind the unsuccessful murder attempt.

In August 2020, he'd fallen violently ill on flight from Siberia to Moscow. The pilot staged an emergency

landing in Omsk where he was immediately hospitalized. His wife and supporters helped make the case for him to be treated elsewhere and he was soon transported to Berlin for care. After emerging from a coma, the German government determined that he'd been poisoned by a lethal, Soviet-era nerve agent. The Kremlin denied the allegation.

Though eager to get back

to Russia (Navalny says at the outset that he's not in Berlin by choice), it's there that he is able to team up with investigative journalists Christo Grozev and Maria Pevchikh, who help track down his suspected poisoners. In one jaw-dropping scene, Navalny calls the suspects one by one on speakerphone. It's a testament to Roher and his editors just how exciting this is on screen. And it all culminates with Navalny's January 2021 flight back to Russia where he knows that he will be immediately arrested and imprisoned.

The film captures these episodes and this unbelievable saga extraordinarily well. Roher maintains a delicate balance of amplifying Navalny's story, including moving testimonies from his wife and daughter, while also resisting full hero worship. Navalny is also a politician, after all, and Roher does not hold back in interrogating what he stands for outside of his opposition to Putin. Blame history, but "Navalny" feels somehow unfinished despite many, many title cards and newsreels that precede the credits. With everything that has transpired in the past few months with Russia's invasion of Ukraine, perhaps its biggest flaw is that it has an ending at all. □

Rachel Maddow returns to MSNBC, will switch to once a week



MSNBC television anchor Rachel Maddow, host of the Rachel Maddow Show, moderates the "Perspectives on National Security" panel on Oct. 16, 2017, in Cambridge, Mass.

Associated Press

By **DAVID BAUDER**
AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — MSNBC's Rachel Maddow returned

to the air Monday with some bad news for her fans: Starting next month, she will be doing her prime-time

show only once a week.

After working her customary five nights a week for the rest of April, Maddow said, she will work on Monday nights only starting in May. The network said it will rotate guest hosts the other four weeknights on a show called "MSNBC Prime."

"For big news events, for things like the leadup to the election, I will of course be here more than that, but that is the general plan," Maddow said on her show Monday.

The cable news network's most popular personality had been on hiatus for the past two months, working on a new podcast and a movie adaptation of her

book "Bag Man." She said the weekly schedule will give her "more time to work on some of this other stuff I've got cooking for MSNBC and NBC."

She heaped praise on Ali Velshi, who had filled in frequently for her while she was away, calling him a "prince among men."

Yet MSNBC's ratings in her time slot tumbled in her absence, even with coverage of a gripping news event, the Ukraine war. MSNBC is not alone in questions about its 9 p.m. Eastern hour: CNN hasn't named a full-time replacement for its former ratings leader, Chris Cuomo, since he was fired in December.

The plan leaves MSNBC executives in an awkward spot. While it has been reported that MSNBC signed a new contract with Maddow that gives her additional flexibility, executives have not publicly addressed that deal, or Maddow's announcement Monday. It seems, at least for the time being, the network will be happy to get as much as it can from Maddow and leave the light on if she someday decides to do more.

Maddow said she had originally thought she might need another hiatus from her show this year but has determined that she won't.

Congress tells FTC Commanders may have broken financial laws

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. House Oversight Committee sent a letter to the Federal Trade Commission on Tuesday saying it found evidence the NFL's Washington Commanders engaged in potentially unlawful financial conduct for more than a decade by withholding ticket revenue from visiting teams and refundable deposits from fans.

In the letter obtained by The Associated Press, the committee outlined through the testimony of former employees and access to emails and documents a pattern of financial impropriety by owner Dan Snyder and team executives. At one point in 2016, the committee said the team retained up to \$5 million from 2,000 season-ticket holders while also concealing sharable revenue from the league.

One former employee testified before Congress saying the team had two separate financial books: one with underreported ticket revenue that went to the NFL and the full, complete picture. According to testimony, Snyder was aware of the numbers shared with the league while also being privy to the actual data.

The business practice was known as "juice" inside Washington's front office.



The helmet of Washington Commanders NFL football team new quarterback Carson Wentz sits on a table during a news conference in Ashburn, Va., Thursday, March 17, 2022.

Associated Press

And, if correct, it could spell significant trouble for Snyder and the Commanders. Ticket revenue is shared among all 32 NFL teams, with 40% of it deposited in a visiting team fund. Such money is among the pillars of the league's revenue-sharing commitment.

A team spokeswoman said there was no new comment and referred to the statement from March 31: "The team categorically denies any suggestion of financial impropriety of any kind at any time."

"We adhere to strict in-

ternal processes that are consistent with industry and accounting standards, are audited annually by a globally respected independent auditing firm, and are also subject to regular audits by the NFL. We continue to cooperate fully with the Committee's work." The league did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

The House Oversight Committee said it is sharing documents with the FTC because the commission has the authority to investigate unfair or deceptive

business practices and determine if any laws were broken.

"We request that you take any other action you deem necessary to ensure that all funds are returned to their rightful owners and that those responsible are held accountable for their conduct," said the letter signed by committee chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney and economic and consumer policy subcommittee chairman Raja Krishnamoorthi. The letter is addressed to FTC chair Lina M. Khan but was also sent to the attor-

neys general of Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia, and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

Congress launched an investigation into the team's workplace misconduct after the league did not release a report detailing the findings of an independent probe into the matter. The committee said the NFL and the team "have taken steps to withhold key documents and information."

That led investigators to seek testimony and documents in other ways. The committee said its investigation uncovered everything from "pervasive sexual harassment and other workplace misconduct to potential financial misconduct."

According to testimony, financial misconduct included making it intentionally difficult for season-ticket holders to recoup refundable deposit money, counting some of those leftover funds as a different kind of revenue that doesn't need to be shared with the league, and shifting money from ticket sales for NFL games to other events at FedEx Field as a way of hiding that money from the league.

The committee in the letter shared spreadsheet data showing evidence of deposits that were not returned. □

Vin Scully wins Baseball Digest lifetime achievement award

NEW YORK (AP) — Vin Scully has won the second Lifetime Achievement Award presented by Baseball Digest.

The longtime Dodgers announcer was honored Tuesday with an annual distinction that recognizes a living individual "who has made significant contributions to the national game."

The 94-year-old Scully retired after the 2016 season, ending a 67-year broadcasting career that stretched back to when the Dodgers played in Brooklyn before moving to Los Angeles in the late 1950s. It was easily the longest tenure of any announcer with

one team.

He was one of six finalists last year, when Willie Mays won the inaugural award. This year, a 17-member panel chose from a list of candidates that included Bobby Cox, Sandy Koufax, Rachel Robinson, Bud Selig and Joe Torre, among others.

"Any award that's already been won by Willie Mays, who certainly was one of my favorite players and one for whom I had great respect, is an honor," Scully said in a news release. "It's an honor to even have my name linked with his in some way. I was honored, delighted and surprised

that I turned out to be the second winner of Baseball Digest's Lifetime Achievement Award. I'm proud of it and humble at the same time."

Scully won the National Baseball Hall of Fame's Ford C. Frick Award for broadcasting excellence in 1982 and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2016.

"Vin Scully was not only the voice of the Dodgers, but was also the soundtrack of our national game for an incredible seven decades," Baseball Digest publisher David Fagley said.

"We are honored to recognize his iconic career both



Vin Scully walks on stage to accept the Icon Award at the ESPYs at the Microsoft Theater on Wednesday, July 12, 2017, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

as a broadcaster and as a wonderful ambassador

for the sport he loves so much." □

Devers singles through shift, lifts Red Sox over Tigers 5-3

By **DANA GAURUDER**

DETROIT (AP) — Rafael Devers singled through the open shortstop area with the infield shifted to the right side, driving in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning Tuesday as the Boston Red Sox overcame a three-run deficit to beat the Detroit Tigers 5-3.

"Teams are going to attack him a certain way and he feels like he has to swing hard. It's the other way around," Boston manager Alex Cora said. "Just take what they give you. That's the mark of a professional hitter."

Garrett Whitlock (1-0) pitched four hitless innings to win in his first appearance since the Red Sox announced his \$18.75 million, four-year contract on Sunday.

Hirokazu Sawamura also got two outs in hitless relief of starter Rich Hill, who allowed three runs and five hits in 4 1/3 innings.

Cora ideally wanted Hill to go five innings and have Whitlock pitch the last four. The plan almost worked to perfection.

"They're going to load up with righties against Rich," Cora said. "He can get them out and then we



Boston Red Sox third baseman Rafael Devers reacts after striking out in the first inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees, Saturday, April 9, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

can turn the page to Whitlock. We get a lot of good matchups from that. They complement each other well. It's a good plan, it's just a matter of how long we can do it."

Whitlock allowed just one baserunner, on a sixth-inning walk to Jeimer Candelario, in an efficient 39-pitch outing.

"Rich pitched amazing, did an absolutely wonderful job," Whitlock said.

Boston, which has not been above .500, improved to 2-3.

Devers had a pair of RBI singles, raising his average to .381, and Kiké Hernández doubled twice for the Red Sox.

Detroit's Spencer Torkelson, the top pick of the 2020 amateur draft, doubled in the third inning for his first big league hit after an 0-for-10 start. The ball dropped in right-center, 309 feet from

the plate, in front of the glove of diving right fielder Christian Arroyo.

"It's something I've looked forward to for a long time," Torkelson said. "For it to finally happen, it's special. The baseball gods were tested me out a little bit, just seeing what I was made of. You've just got to persevere, trust yourself and the hits will come."

Detroit took a 3-0 lead in the third when Torkelson

scored on Robbie Grossman's groundout, Jonathan Schoop followed with a run-scoring single and Javier Báez added an RBI double.

Hernandez hit an RBI double in the sixth and scored on a single by Devers that chased Tyler Alexander, who gave up five hits in 5 1/3 innings. J.D. Martinez tied the score against Jacob Barnes when he sliced an opposite-field double off the foul line in deep right field, a call upheld in a video review.

Hernandez walked against Alex Lange (0-1) leading off the eighth and advanced on a wild pitch. Arroyo added a two-out RBI single off Will Vest.

"They did a good job with their at-bats as the game went along," Detroit manager A.J. Hinch said. "They had tougher at-bats and we didn't execute quite as well as the game went on."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Red Sox: 2B Trevor Story (illness) didn't start for the third consecutive game. "Hopefully tomorrow," Cora said. "We're not going to be stupid about it."

Tigers: Grossman left after the sixth inning due to right groin tightness. □

Djokovic loses clay-court opener at Monte Carlo Masters



Serbia's Novak Djokovic rests during a break as he plays Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokina during their second round match at the Monte-Carlo Masters tennis tournament, Tuesday, April 12, 2022 in Monaco.

Associated Press

By **BARBARA SURK**
Associated Press

MONACO (AP) — Novak Djokovic opened his clay-court season with a surprising loss to Alejandro Davi-

dovich Fokina at the Monte Carlo Masters on Tuesday. Davidovich Fokina stunned the top-ranked Serb 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-1 in the second round to hand Djokovic an-

other setback as he tries to move on from the controversy surrounding his refusal to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

It makes for rare back-to-back losses for Djokovic, who had not played since being eliminated in the quarterfinals of the Dubai Tennis Championships in February — his only previous tournament this year after he was barred from playing at the Australian Open.

Djokovic struggled from the start as the 46th-ranked Spaniard broke him early to pull ahead 4-1 before another break handed him the first set. Davidovich Fokina kept up the pressure and led 3-0 in the second before Djokovic clawed back. But the Serb continued to struggle on his serve

and was broken three times in the decider.

"He was the better player," Djokovic said. "I was hanging on the ropes the entire match."

The Serb said he was too exhausted to put up a fight in the third set.

"I collapsed," Djokovic said. "I just ran out of gas completely ... If you can't stay in the rally, not feeling your legs on the clay, it's mission impossible."

Djokovic had beaten Davidovich Fokina in straight sets twice last year, in Rome and at the Tokyo Olympics. "I'm so happy for the win today," Davidovich Fokina said. "I missed (Djokovic) on the tour."

Djokovic could not defend his Australian Open title in January after he was deported from the country for

not being vaccinated. He had to skip tournaments in Indian Wells, California, and Miami because he couldn't travel to the United States for the same reason.

The authorities in France and Monaco lifted most COVID-19 restrictions last month, allowing people who aren't vaccinated into the country and back into restaurants, sports arenas and other venues.

That means Djokovic will be able to play at the French Open, which remains his "big goal of the clay season."

"I knew that it's going to take some time for me to really feel my best on the clay," Djokovic said. "I have to accept defeat and keep working ... and hopefully build my form for Roland Garros."